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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

SUBJECT Organization and Functions of the Passive and the Partisan Elements of Latvian Resistance

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## Organization and Functions of the Passive Resistance Element

1. All members of the passive resistance element live legally and, for security purposes, are divided into small groups. Within these small groups are usually to be found bosom friends who trust each other well. Control of these groups is maintained by the resistance leader of the area by means of his personal liaison men. Outside of these groups identities are not known, other than by the area leader and his immediate circle and, in some cases, by certain of the liaison men.
2. The passive resistance men endeavor to remain as unobtrusive as possible. Their first consideration is to preserve their legal existence in order that they may continue to assist both their illegally and legally living brethren. Their tasks are as follows:
  - a. to collect information from their non-resistance associates, places of employment, etc., which may be of help to the security of the Resistance Movement (e.g., news of impending deportations or raids).
  - b. to collect weapons and stores for use in an emergency.
  - c. to give information which may be of help to the partisans in planning raids or actions to obtain funds.
  - d. to produce digests of radio and press for the information of the Resistance Movement.

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- e. to help in the procurement of medicines and supplies for the use of the partisans.
3. Most of the passive resistance men are in good positions, such as engineers, doctors, chief accountants, managing directors, teachers, etc.

#### Liaison between the Passive Resistance and the Partisan Elements

4. No members of the partisan element are aware of the identities of passive resistance members. Liaison is strictly controlled by the previously mentioned area leader, who uses individual passive resistance members as liaison men to each of the partisan groups. The area leader himself sometimes sees the leaders of partisan groups separately in order to transmit instructions and to receive situation reports. Meetings with the area leader can be arranged by a group leader either through dead letter boxes or through the group's liaison man.

#### Organization of the Partisan Element of the Resistance

5. The body of organized partisans is broken down into groups, each of not more than ten partisans. Communication between groups is restricted to a minimum and is usually (but not always) effected through or on the instructions of the area leader, e.g., for rendering each other mutual operational assistance. In addition to these partisans there are patriots who are hiding in the area with close friends or relatives but who have been unable to obtain access to the resistance organization.
6. There are some other groups who, for security reasons, fear to ally themselves to the organization, i.e., are so security-conscious that they will cooperate with no other group nor accept any new members whatsoever.
7. Each partisan group, in addition to its liaison man with the area leader, has a number of legally living supporters (e.g., foresters, farmers, etc.) in the areas in which it operates. These supporters are always close friends or distant relatives of one or other of the members of the group. (N.B: Direct contact with close relatives is avoided for security reasons.) In an area of say 80 x 80 km a group may have three or four supporters, and an important factor when considering a site for a hide-out is the proximity of the nearest supporter.
8. Single partisans sometimes spend several days in barns or outhouses of supporters' farms. Some houses where supporters live alone were utilized for building secret caves and hiding places under the floors. With the extension of collectivization and the Soviet practice of placing informants in every dwelling it has now, however, become virtually impossible to stay in the actual homes or farmhouses of supporters, and it is dangerous to call supporters from their homes at night, even by prearranged signals. Supporters can now be met only away from their homes, either by prior arrangement or after careful observation of a supporter's movements by the partisans.

#### Tasks of the Supporters

9. Apart from acting as the local "eyes and ears" of the partisans among the legally resident population, the supporters assist in overcoming partisan food supply problems. As an example, there is a fair amount of "free market" traffic passing through certain areas. For example, Lithuanian spekulanti often travel from the border areas of Mazeikiai and Zagarė, transporting produce and livestock for sale in Riga, where they command higher prices. These spekulanti are sometimes intercepted by partisan

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supporters, and pigs, poultry, etc., are purchased with partisan funds. These are deals which are satisfactory to both sides, and in their own interests ~~spekulanti~~ can be relied upon not to talk.

Aims of the Partisans

10. At present the partisans can do little more than provide refuge for those members of the passive organization who feel threatened. Since 1949, the partisans have been concerned with preserving their strength until an opportunity is found of making use of the potential which they and the passive resistance elements have to offer. In the meantime they are anxious to learn and train for the day when they will be of use. To this end they look to the West for guidance and help.

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